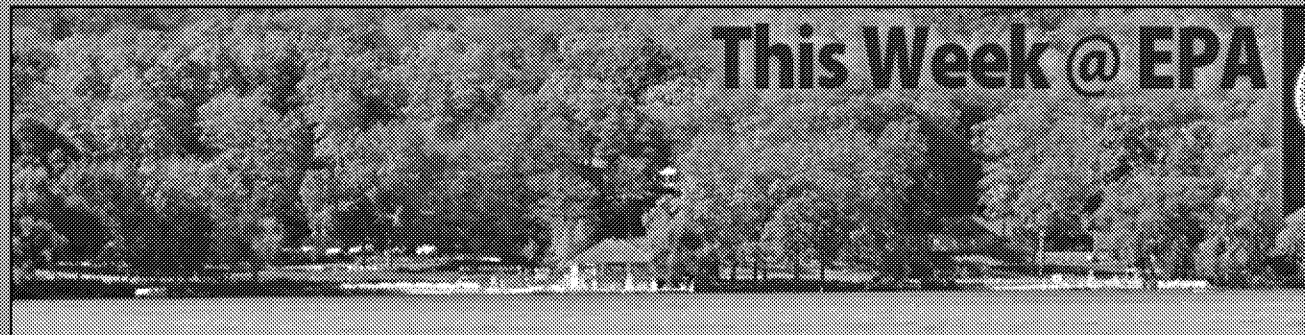


## Message

**From:** This Week @ EPA [epanews@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/21/2021 2:00:26 PM  
**To:** This Week @ EPA [epanews@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** This Week @ EPA - December 20, 2021



December 20, 2021

Photograph taken by Richard Angelbeck, Reg

**Winter Photo Call!** We invite you to share your winter-themed photos with us. For examples of previous uses of these photos and connect to your VPN and see our guidance information on [EPA@Work](#). We've added a photo upload tool to make it even easier to upload your photos. Questions can be sent to: [internalcomms@epa.gov](mailto:internalcomms@epa.gov). The submission deadline is Thursday, December 30. ~ The Office of Internal

[Senior Leadership Focus](#) | [Employee Spotlight](#) | [Hot Topics](#) | [Key Dates](#) | [Video Spotlight](#) | [Health & Wellness](#) |

## Senior Leadership Focus

### In case you missed it

#### Senior Leadership Messages

- Administrator Regan [announces](#) Presidential Rank Award recipients.
- Deputy Administrator McCabe [provides information on an executive order](#) catalyzing America's clean energy economy through
- Deputy Administrator McCabe [shares update](#) on EPA's COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan.

#### News Releases

- EPA [finalizes greenhouse gas standards](#) for passenger vehicles, paving way for a zero-emissions future.
- EPA [takes critical step](#) towards strengthening science used in chemical risk evaluations.
- EPA [announces nationwide monitoring effort](#) to better understand extent of PFAS in drinking water.
- EPA [settlement with Avantor Performance Materials](#) resolves public right to know and mercury export violations.
- EPA [announces plans to use first \\$1B](#) from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to clear out the superfund backlog.
- EPA [announces](#) intent to strengthen lead and copper regulations, support proactive lead service line removal across the country.
- EPA [announces \\$14.1 Million](#) to fund 133 environmental justice grants.
- EPA [awards over \\$32 million](#) for tribal environmental programs in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.
- EPA [announces over \\$3 Million](#) in funding to small businesses to develop environmental technologies.
- EPA [extends public comment period](#) on proposal to cut methane and other pollution from the oil and natural gas industry.

## Employee Spotlight

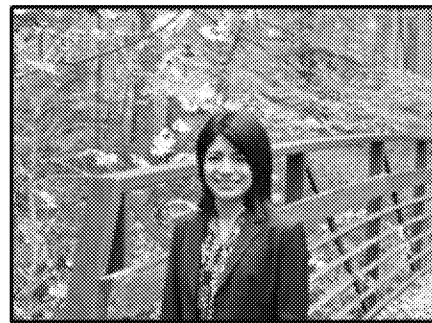
Dr. Evisabel Craig, OCSPP

Jermaine Hawkins, OMS

This week we highlight Dr. Evisabel Craig, who is a team leader in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). Evisabel joined EPA in 2012 as an ORISE fellow at the Office of Research and Development in Cincinnati, OH. Throughout the years, Evisabel has performed hazard and risk assessments for a variety of industrial chemicals to aid in cleanup efforts under the Superfund program and to determine safe levels for chemical use in residential and occupational settings.

Evisabel has also participated in multiple EPA-wide efforts, including the development of the EPA New Approach Methods (NAMs) work plan for reducing the use of animals in chemical testing, and she worked on the rulemaking process for the designation of several PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances.

Evisabel has a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Arizona and is a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking with family and friends as well as mentoring youth through various initiatives.



**Peter Johnson, Region 4**

This week we introduce Jermaine Hawkins from E (OMS). Jermaine is the technical manager for the (iPhone and iPad). Jermaine implemented software settings and compliance policies allowing the agency to be compliant with the following Federal Information Security requirements:

- Protect against malware and malicious applications through a mobile threat defense solution.
- Prevent the execution of unauthorized software.
- Prevent access to enterprise resources (e.g. email) when security updates are not per timeframe.

In addition, he has been proactive in identifying and addressing security vulnerabilities. His expertise with mobile devices has significantly improve the agency's mobile device security.

Jermaine has over 11 years of federal service. He graduated from college and a senior in high school. Jermaine enjoys spending time with his daughters. He loves sports and is an NFL Team and Boston Celtics fan. He also enjoys traveling. Weather and pools are involved.

**Dr. Susan Burke, OAR**

This week we highlight Peter Johnson from Region 4's Land, Chemicals and

This week, we highlight Dr. Susan Burke in

Redevelopment Division (LCRD), Redevelopment and Chemicals Branch, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) and Sustainability Section.

Peter joined EPA in March of 2020 as a PCB Project Manager, where he guides the private and public sectors on PCB-related matters. He also reviews PCB permit applications and PCB Cleanup Plans, and issues PCB Approvals. He feels very fortunate to be part of the amazing and dedicated PCB Team with Terri Crosby-Vega, Jan Martin, Edmond Burkes, and PCB and Sustainability Section Chief Barbara Alfano!

Additionally, he serves as LCRD's Health and Safety Officer, Region 4's Asian American Pacific Islander's Special Emphasis Program Manager, and Region 4's Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Lead. He enjoys the opportunity to work with EPA personnel in other Divisions through these roles.

Prior to joining EPA, Peter, a Professional Geologist, worked at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division for approximately five years, and in environmental consulting for approximately eight years.

Outside of work, Peter enjoys spending time with friends and family, hiking, and camping (with his wife, 3-year-old son, and dog), fishing, canoeing, juggling, woodworking, and traveling (oh how he misses traveling).

Susan serves as a technical lead on electric vehicle infrastructure in the Transportation and Climate Solutions Division. She played a key role in the \$2 billion Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Volkswagen Settlement, and continues to lead electric vehicle infrastructure work through research and innovation. She is passionate about more electric cars, trucks, and buses expected to be on the road, helping to answer big picture questions about the infrastructure needed to support them.

In her 12 years at EPA, Susan has also helped lead the response to multiple rulemakings and engage in modeling and analysis of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. One of her most enjoyable work has been developing the Green Vehicle Guide website, including analyzing the impact of electric vehicles work. (Can you spot the red in the image?)

Susan has a Ph.D. in physics and conducted research at the National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago. She also spent a year as an American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science & Technology Policy Fellow.

[Nominate an employee today and he/she/it will be featured in EPA Week @ EPA, EPA@Work, and/or on LinkedIn!](#)

## Hot Topics

Instructions for time and attendance for Pay Period 01, December 19, 2021-January 1, 2022





This is time and attendance guidance for Pay Period 01, 2022, December 19, 2021-January 1, 2022. All time and attendance for agency employees must be input and attested to by the employee and approved by their supervisor as follows:

- **Timecard Corrections for Prior Pay Periods** - no later than 10 p.m. Eastern Time, Tuesday, December 28. *Please mark your calendar so you don't miss this deadline.*
- **Time and Attendance for Pay Period 01 ending January 1, 2022** - no later than 10 p.m. Eastern Time, Thursday, December 30. *Employees should not modify their time and attendance after this date and time. Please mark your calendar so you don't miss this deadline.*

Please check the list of reporting codes (TREGW, TMREG, TWRAC, TWEHR, and REGHR, etc.) for more information on each code. The list is of time reporting codes and guidance for time and attendance to be used for the COVID-19 impacted pay periods.

If you have any questions about this time and attendance guidance or need assistance, please submit a helpdesk ticket to [HRPAYHELP@epa.gov](mailto:HRPAYHELP@epa.gov) or contact the OCFO Systems HelpDesk at 202-564-OCFO (202-564-6236).



The Coeur d'Alene Basin Cleanup is located in northern Idaho and eastern Washington. Historical mining and milling disposal methods spread contaminants throughout the channel and floodplain of the South Fork and mainstem of the Coeur d'Alene River and the site was added to the National Priorities List in 1983. Office of Research and Development (ORD) researchers recently traveled to the area to sample pore water, surface water, and sediments. [Read more about this work](#) in EPA's Science Matters Newsletter produced by ORD.

## **Resources for Seasonal Affective Disorder**

EPA's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), [Espyr \(Exit\)](#), has many helpful resources for those impacted by Seasonal

Affective Disorder (SAD). According to the [National Institute of Mental Health](#), "SAD is not considered a separate disorder but is a type of depression characterized by its recurrent seasonal pattern, with symptoms lasting about 4 to 5 months per year." SAD is temporary and typically only occurs when days are shorter and there is less sunlight. There are treatment options available for SAD, so speak to your healthcare provider about which options are best for you.

Some of the indicators associated with SAD include:

- Symptoms of major depression.
- Oversleeping (hypersomnia).
- Craving carbohydrates.
- Overeating and/or weight gain.
- Social withdrawal (i.e., feeling like "hibernating").

**If you or someone you know is in immediate distress or is thinking about hurting themselves, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline toll-free at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).**

To access online resources visit [www.espyr.com](http://www.espyr.com) ([Exit](#)) and use the EPA password, which is [usepa](#). For additional EAP information visit [EPA's EAP Intranet Site](#). For questions, please email [eap@epa.gov](mailto:eap@epa.gov).



Are you frustrated when adding events posted on the [agency calendar](#) to your Outlook calendar? Do you have to save the iCal file (\*.ics) to your downloads folder and then open the file independently to save it to Outlook? [We have a solution for you.](#)

**Reminder: Help Wanted – Application Reviewers for 2021 EE Grants – Deadline Extended!**



EPA recently announced up to \$3 million in funding for locally-focused environmental education grants under the

Environmental Education (EE) Local Grant Program. Applications were due Dec. 6, 2021, and OEE needs your help reviewing them.

EPA will award grants in each of EPA's 10 Regions, for a total of 30-40 grants nationwide. Given the needed assistance with awarding these grants – and the opportunity for valuable training – please (in consultation with your supervisor) consider volunteering your time. The experience of reviewing grants will foster a more informed and equitable EPA workforce and help align the agency with the government-wide priority for equity and the Administrator's focus on supporting underserved communities.

The time commitment for serving as an OEE Grant Reviewer is approximately 10-20% over 60 days. Reviewer training will begin in mid-December and scoring of applications will be done in January and early-February. In some instances, the time commitment can be adjusted based on your workload.

Interested staff are encouraged to review more detailed information and apply through [Skills Marketplace](#) **by December 30.**

For information on the EE Grants Program, please visit the [EE Grants internet page](#).

**Reminder: Nominations are open! 2022 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals**

On November 9, Deputy Administrator McCabe announced that the 2022 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America

Medals ("Sammies") (Exit) nominations are open. Sponsored by the Partnership for Public Service, the Sammies highlight excellence in the federal workforce. Anyone can submit a nomination. Individuals will be recognized in the following medal and nomination categories:

- Federal Employee of the Year.
- Paul A. Volcker Career Achievement.
- Emerging Leaders.
- Safety, Security, and International Affairs.
- Management Excellence.
- Science and Environment.
- COVID-19 Response.

The deadline to complete a nomination form (Exit) is January 14, 2022. For more information, including nomination and selection process, medal categories, and criteria, please visit the Service to America Medals website (Exit).

## Combined Federal Campaign

**CFC Cause of the Week: Mental Wellness**

Mental health conditions can be overlooked, as people often conceal underlying conditions and hidden struggles with a

smile or routine motions. Each of us have had life experiences that have a prolonged effect on our mental health. No one should have to suffer alone. Understanding and highlighting mental health awareness is critical to ensure we can all recognize the signs and help affected individuals get the help and ongoing support they need.

Globally, more than 264 million people of all ages suffer from depression. One in five people living in an area affected by conflict will likely have depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia, which can worsen if untreated by a professional.

Also, poor mental wellness is associated with rapid social change, stressful work conditions, gender discrimination, social exclusion, unhealthy lifestyle, physical illness, and human rights violations. The most common mental and neurological disorders for those aged 60 and older are dementia and depression.

Your donation to mental health cause areas tackles stigmas, prioritizes mental health programs, provides resources, and offers treatment efforts. Your gift improves the lives of individuals, families, and our communities affected by mental health. [Join the CFC community today](#) and become a changemaker.

Key Dates

Video Spotlight

Click on each event below to get more details.

[Twitter video of Administrator Regan driving an electric Volvo garbage truck](#)



Tweet



Michael Regan, U.S. EPA

@EPAMichaelRegan

I had some fun this weekend test driving EV trucks at @VolvoTrucksNA with @UAW! Modernizing our nation's heavy-duty fleet is how we'll deliver on our clean energy future.



Click on the "Add to Calendar" button, Select the last entry, iCal/MS Outlook, to add an event to your Outlook calendar. *Note: If you see a log-in screen, please click on your EPA email, or if prompted, enter your email and network password.*

**Coming soon:**









Employees



Supervisors



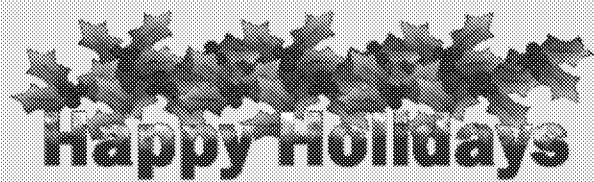




Employees



*\*Future of Work information sessions are for **non-bargaining unit employees** and supervisors*

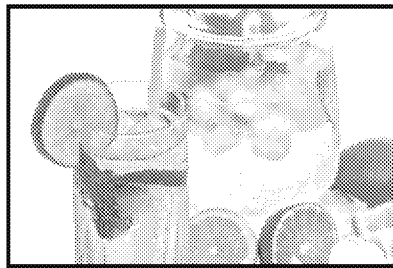


## Health and Wellness

### Boosting Your Immunity webinar

Maintaining a healthy immune system is central to protecting your body against infection. Learn how to strengthen your immune system by participating in the Virginia Hospital Center's Boosting Your Immunity webinar on **Thursday, January 13 from 2-3 p.m. ET.** [Register today](#) [\(Exit\)](#).

For more information, visit the [Health and Wellness page](#) on the Office of Mission Support's Safety and Sustainability Division's intranet site.



*Note: This event is presented to support health and wellness. EPA does not endorse this business, practitioner or service.*

## IT Corner

### Use Live Transcription in your Teams meetings

Microsoft Teams meetings now have live transcription! That means your Teams meetings can have voice-to-text transcription happen as people are speaking. During the meeting, the text appears on the right side of the meeting screen in real time and includes the speaker's name and a time stamp. After the meeting, you can download the transcription file from the meeting chat.

To start live transcription, you must be a meeting organizer or presenter. Then:

1. Click the **More actions** ellipses from the top menu bar.



2. Select "Start transcription" from the drop-down menu.



3. Notify attendees that transcription started. An alert will appear at the top of the meeting chat so you know the transcription started.



4. To stop the transcription, click the **More actions** ellipses and select "Stop transcription".



You can learn more about the Teams meeting [live transcription](#) [\(Exit\)](#) feature on Microsoft's website.

**Resources:** You can sign up for [live Microsoft Office 365 training classes](#); view [recorded training classes](#); and join the [Teams Users Community](#) (inside Teams), where you'll find [additional EPA guidance documents](#).

**Need help?** For technical issues, please contact the Enterprise IT Service Desk (EISD) at [EISD@epa.gov](mailto:EISD@epa.gov) or 1-866-411-4372.

We would love to hear our feedback about this newsletter. Please contact us at [internalcomms@epa.gov](mailto:internalcomms@epa.gov) | <http://intranet.epa.gov/internalcomms>. Looking for previous editions of the newsletter? Go to the [archive](#).